



Brownfields 2003 Grant Fact Sheet

Westbrook, ME

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Westbrook was selected to receive a revolving loan fund grant. Founded in 1816, this former mill town is an urban-suburban community with underused commercial, industrial, and residential areas complemented by patches of farmland and open space along the Presumpscot River. The closure of a major pulp and paper mill has decimated the city's tax base and significantly reduced employment opportunities. The city is working to redevelop neighborhoods that are predominantly low-to-moderate income, in which there is a predominance of single-parent and senior residents. Redevelopment of the targeted areas, together with the abandoned paper mill, will provide jobs, remove eyesores from the central urban core, and create incentives for younger residents to remain within the community.



Revolving Loan Fund Grant



\$900,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Westbrook for a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund with which the city will provide loans and subgrants to conduct cleanup activities. The city plans to focus the grant on several projects including the transformation of abandoned mill and electric-repair facilities into a modern office complex, and the redevelopment of an abandoned tire retreading plant into an urban gateway commercial development.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1210
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Westbrook, ME
207-854-9105

Prior to receipt of these funds in fiscal year 2003, the City of Westbrook has received brownfields funding for assessment grants.

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.